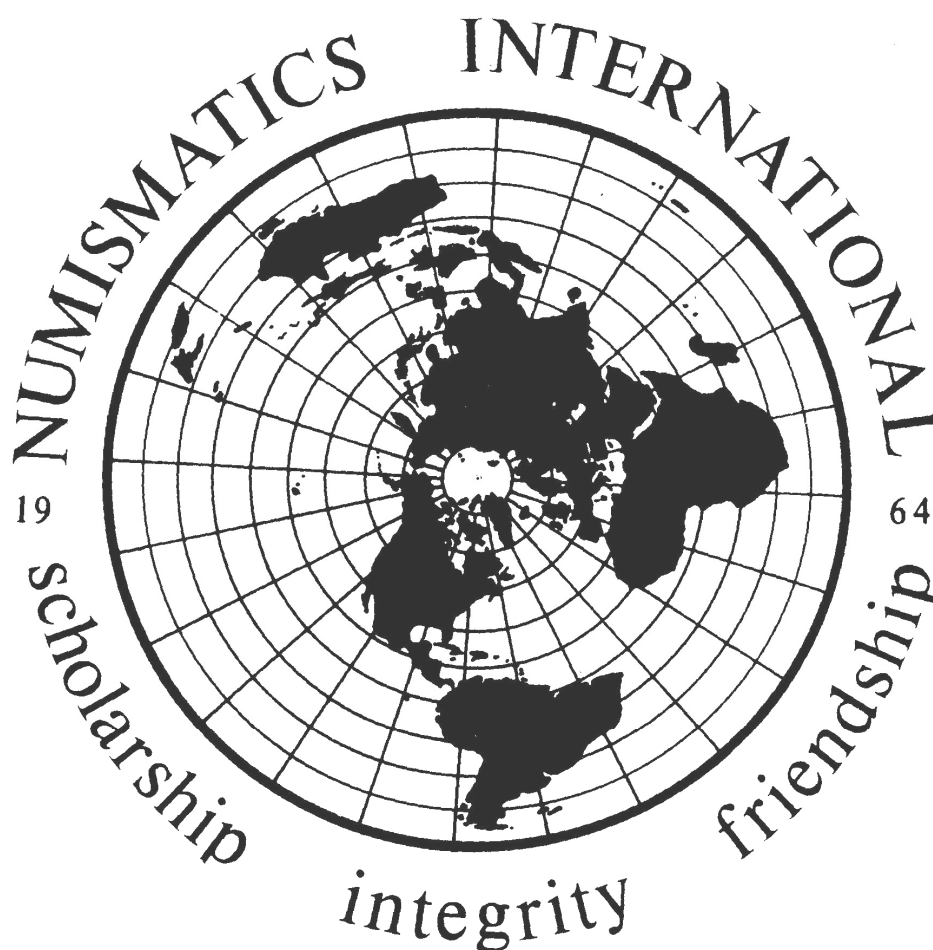


# NI Bulletin

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### **Moderator, NI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Howard A. Daniel III

P.O. Box 989 Deltaville, VA 23043-0989

e-mail: Howard@SEAsianTreasury.com

fax: 413-826-3087

### **Archivist**

Ross Schraeder

**Book Orders:** Elmore Scott: eboscott@comcast.net

### **NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL**

e-mail: johnvan@grandecom.net

Internet: <http://www.numis.org>

Correspondence should be directed to those persons and addresses above for departments indicated. All other correspondence should be mailed direct to NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL, P.O. BOX 570842, DALLAS, TX 75357-0842.

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Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

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## Membership Report

The following person has applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by October 1, 2006 the membership is effective that day.

2683-MT Martin Kassir, 10807 Camellia, Dallas, TX 75230 (Africa and Asia).



## NI Educational Programs

**ANA World's Fair of Money at the Colorado Convention Center at 700 14th Street, Denver, CO 80202, August 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2006.**

An NI educational meeting will be held Saturday, August 19 at noon in Room 711. There will be a talk by Don Dool about 15th and 16th century copper coins and Howard Daniel will deliver a brief talk about NI. Attendees are welcome to participate in a "show and tell" session. Howard will also be passing out world coins to new and young collectors at the NI Club table on the midway; he has some material but can always use more coins. To contact Howard about the ANA show, his email address is HADaniel3@msn.com.

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**Numismatics International P.O. Box 570842, Dallas, TX USA 75357-0842**

## **The Hoe Money of Central and South America**

### **James Martin NI #2657**

Many have heard of Aztec hoe money but how much do we really know about it? Numismatists, like historians, try to seek out the elusive source of any cultural development and properly place it in the continuum of human progress. The discussion of the first true coins often gets lost in the definition of what 'true coinage' is. Thankfully, this is well beyond the subject of this monograph. Yet the issue is a factor in the discussion of whether or not the hoe money of Central and South America should be considered a legitimate form of money.

In his book *Numismatic History of Mexico from the Pre-Columbian Epoch to 1823*, the late author Dr. Alberto Pradeau quotes many sources concerning the 'tajaderas'. They, and current archeologists and numismatists specializing in Mexican coins, concur that these hoe- or axe-shaped metal artifacts were used as money.

If you review the earliest bronze money of China you can follow the transition of money development from the bronze 'spade', used as a tool to turn earth and to weed crops, to the proto-coin that was used as money. The proto-coin soon represents a certain standardized weight of metal and can no longer be used as a tool even though it still resembles one. As the transition progresses the money soon loses all visual relationship to the original tool.

In a similar way the hoe money system developed in South America and was quickly adopted in Central America. However, further information and research is required. For instance, the Moche people of northern Peru had double pan balance scales to accompany their emerging hoe technology, yet there is no obvious standardized weight system for the individual hoes. As the photo captions indicate, hoes found in a Mexican hoard do have a wide variance in size and weight. Perhaps this problem was solved somewhat by trading them in large groups. In Ecuador stacks of hoe money have been found in similar-sized groups of up to 500 in a stack.

In the account of his fourth voyage to the Indies, while off the north coast of Honduras near Islas de la Bahia (Bay Islands), Columbus described an encounter with a Mayan trade canoe. He said it was as long as a Spanish galley and about 2.5 meters wide. It had a central cabin, and along with the captain had a crew of about two dozen men. Women and children were also aboard. The cargo consisted of cacao (chocolate beans), metal products such as bells and axes, pottery (including crucibles for metallurgy), cotton clothing and Mexican style wooden swords with obsidian flake edges.

American cultures valued sea shells and used them as a medium of exchange just as the Chinese and many other world cultures have. While the Chinese preferred cowrie shells (*Cypraea moneta*) the Native Americans valued the larger thorny oyster family (*Spondylus*). However, it was the fruit of the cacahuatl tree, the cacao bean, which served as the basic unit of exchange in the Americas. The greatest unit of exchange at the time of the conquest was a sack of cacao beans that consisted of 24,000 beans.

The bean was so valued that a form of counterfeiting took place; the bean was hollowed out and the meat of the bean replaced with mud! The early 'bean counters' accompanying Hernando Cortez gave the bean a value of 140 to one Spanish silver real.

Other media of exchange included small pieces of finely woven cloth, stone beads, gold dust kept inside a transparent quill, small disks of tin, and gold flattened into the shape of an eagle with outstretched wings.

### **Hoe Money (a.k.a. axe, Aztec hoe, and scraper money)**

From what is known, metallurgy and the resultant hoe money originated in what is now Ecuador and Peru. The Sican, a pre-Inca culture (AD 700-1100), made extraordinary advances in metallurgy. They created brass-like alloys of copper and arsenic. Copper from Peru was traded to the Ecuadorian cultures and then maritime traders from coastal Ecuador brought it to the peoples of west Mexico, the Mixtec, Zapotec and Tarascan. The introduction of these metals took place from AD 800-1200, also known as the post-Classical era in Mesoamerica. The trade back consisted mainly of the sacred pink *Spondylus* shell, that flourished in the warmer waters further north, and the Mexican hairless dog. The Tarascan culture of west Mexico is known to have made metallurgical advances too. Combined, these pre-conquest and even pre-Aztec cultures make up the current Mexican states of Michoacan and Oaxaca.

Interestingly enough 'Aztec hoe money' is a misnomer; the Aztecs are *not* known to have used these copper or bronze hoes as a medium of exchange. The Aztecs did take advantage of the new metallurgy to help build their militaristic society as did the Tarascan and other cultures of Mesoamerica. One can wonder if the introduction of metal weaponry didn't help move Mesoamerica from the Classic period to the post-classic period.

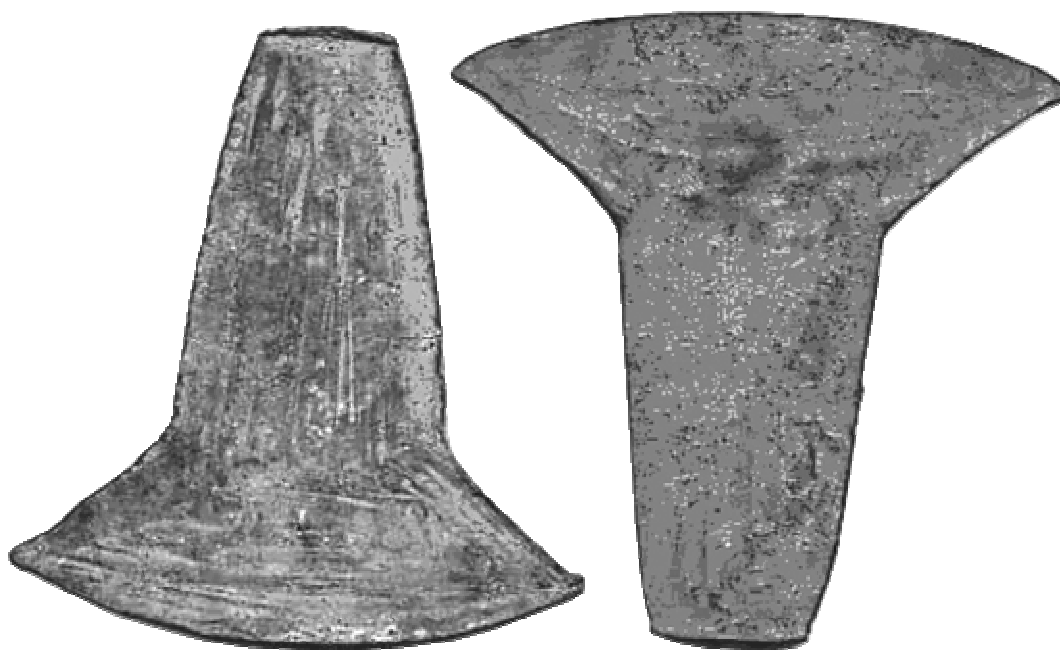
While casting metal votive figures is well known throughout Mesoamerica, hoe money is predominately a product of beating the metal into sheets, cutting the sheets into shape, and perhaps hammering a flange on the edges of the shaft to strengthen it. The first reference to this particular form of money was by Francisco Lopez Tenorio in 1548. As a Spanish resident of Antiquera de Oaxaca he described the 'sliced mushroom' shaped piece as well as drew a picture of it. His description read: "This is the form of copper coins that were in use in New Spain. The value placed and at which these were commonly accepted was four such pieces, if new, for five Spanish reales. If worn, many refused to accept them, and they were sold to be melted in ten pieces for one Spanish real."

Several thoughts come to mind beyond the interesting reference to condition as a measure of value. When I see the ragged edged hoes, ones looking more like chisels, I imagine that some of the hoes were actually used as tools and that the 'wings' eventually developed metal fatigue and broke off. Then, with further use they became rounded off and ragged edged. What else would have caused them to be so worn as to be devalued to a fraction of their original value? With the weight not being what it should for an average medium of exchange, the pieces had to be devalued and probably melted. While there is no documented evidence for this, the idea is

somewhat logical; after all, why did they later hammer the edges to strengthen the shaft if they were not used as tools? Another question should be resolved: what to finally call these pieces of metal money. They originate from a tool of some sort, but was it an axe, a hoe, or a scraper? Haven't actual tools been found that could answer this question? I've chosen to call them all 'hoe' money because I see a better hoe than I do an axe, and because this agricultural use fits nicely with the beloved 'spade' coins of ancient China.

You can see the detailed color photos of the hoe money at the new *Numismatics International* Yahoo! Group Website, <http://ph.groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics/photos/browse/3177>. Click on the 'thumbnail' images to see them in full size (not to scale). You are encouraged to make comments about this article at the *Numismatics International* Yahoo group by 'Posting' to the 'Message' area on the main page. While you are at it, be sure to take the 'Poll' to register your opinion on the usefulness of the NI group.

The following are photos and descriptions of various types of hoe money.



**Earliest Hoe Money**  
Ecuador ca. AD 800-1400

The image above illustrates the original hoe, axe, or scraper money from which all later Mexican types were derived. It has a functional shape with typical striations across the top and up the shaft. From a lot of 20 pieces the average size was 75 mm high by 70 mm at the flared top. The typical piece weighs in the range of 11.72 g to 20.85 g with one specimen at 25.39 g, thus these do not exhibit a monetary weight standard. (photo Scott Semans)



**West Mexico Hoe Money**  
Guerrero-Michoacan ca. AD 1200-1520

This is the type that was probably derived from maritime trade with Ecuador, probably an earlier type but certainly a more recent discovery. This form is thin with a crinkled chisel shape, of a copper-arsenic alloy that is 198×64 mm. The edges have not been hammered into a flanged reinforcement. Others of this form are larger (220×77 mm) and some smaller (e.g. 167×60 and 140×58 mm). (photo Scott Semans)



**West Mexico Hoe Money**  
With US one cent for comparison

This type follows the general description of the type above. However, this chisel shaped type is made of thicker metal and side rim flanges have been hammered to reinforce the shaft. Size is 85×145 mm - no weight is available. (photo Scott Semans)



### **Oaxacan or Mixtec Hoe Money**

This type is like the one above with thicker metal and a heavily hammered edge on both sides of the shaft. The size is 167×156 mm and the weight is 145 g. (photo author). You can see a much better photo of the other side of this piece at: <http://www.moneta.coins.com/photopost/showphoto.php?photo=315&cat=608>.

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## Numismatic Odd Couple, Mexico

Howard Ford NI #LM90



**Mexico Peso 1920**

The odd couple in this case will be the two sides of the same coin, a Mexico 1 Peso 1920, which I acquired late in 2004. This is a very scarce coin, cataloging in KM for \$250 in Unc and \$300 in BU. The Cap and Rays side is a lustrous and beautiful BU, surely an MS-63 at least and possibly a MS-64. However, the Eagle side is very poorly struck and is flat on both of the legs of the Eagle as well as his breast. The Snake is also very flat where it crosses the breast of the Eagle. The overall appearance of this side of the coin is VF, but the excellence of the other side has enabled NGC (Numismatic Guaranty Corporation) to slab it as an MS-61.

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*NI*

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## Terms Used in Coinage

Christopher Carson NI #2636

### Nickel (Ni)

A hard, brilliant white heavy metal (atomic number 28, specific gravity 8.90), nickel is a metal of utmost importance to many of the world's industries today, and specifically to coinage. Nickel and cobalt are two elements chemically intermediate between iron and copper which generally occur together in Terrestrial deposits, and they get their names from a common source. Both are ferromagnetic and commonly found associated with metallic iron in meteorites, but occur on Earth mostly as sulfides found in deposits of copper sulfide ore. A nyckel is a sort of German hill-troll, cousin to the kobold, whose name has been appropriated to Satan ("Old Nick") in colloquial usage; and from the circumstance that a mixed ore of copper and nickel was the very devil, as it were, to smelt and work, the German smiths called this mineral kupfernyckel. When in the XVIII century chemists succeeded in isolating the metals involved, it seemed only natural to call the greater component nickel and the lesser cobalt. Nickel is very much resistant to corrosion, and confers this characteristic on its alloys, which accounts for its industrial importance; although pure nickel has been widely used in minting to produce lustrous coins which wear extremely well, its hardness leads to mechanical problems and it is rather costly. Fortunately, nickel is completely miscible with copper, forming a series of alloys with properties intermediate between the two metals; as little as 10% to 15% Ni secures a substantial degree of whiteness and wear resistance to such a cupronickel, while simultaneously reducing both equipment and materials costs to a reasonable level.

*Continued on page 166*

## **Money for Texas**

### **Eugene Freeman NI #2613**

As indicated by the name of a famous theme park near Fort Worth, Texas has been controlled by six different governments of European heritage: France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States of America, and the Confederate States of America. During three of these periods, coins and/or currency were specifically issued for Texas. The items in this article were issued before Texas joined the United States.

The earliest mention among standard reference works that I have found to money specifically for the area of Texas is Carlos Elizondo Jr. *Eight Reales and Pesos of the New World*. Manuel Salcedo was the Governor of Texas in 1810, and he ordered the counterstamp of an intertwined MS to be applied to Spanish Colonial coins, to validate them for use in the territory of Texas. An 8 reales of this type is identified in the Krause catalog as KM 200 in the latest 19th century catalog, but no mention is made of who Salcedo was.

Salcedo was executed by Hidalgoist forces in April 1813, after the Battle of Salado. On April 16, the rebels declared Texas to be independent from Spain, and established the first Republic of Texas. The first republic was destroyed by the army of royalist General Joaquin Arredondo, who won the Battle of Medina on August 18, 1813, and went on a rampage that re-established royalist control by virtually depopulating the province of Texas, except for the settlement of Bexar.

The Spanish colonial monetary system consisted of the gold 8 escudos and its fractions, principally the silver 8 reales and its fractions of 4, 2, 1 and ½ reales. The majority of the silver coins actually minted were the 8 reales, of which the full name of the coin was Peso de Ocho Reales (Piece of Eight Reales). Considering that a soldier's pay was about 18 pesos per month, and many civilians earned a small fraction of this, an 8 reales had too much purchasing power for the basic economies of the colonies. Local areas provided their own smaller change by cutting the 8 reales into fractions down to 1 real, which became known as a 'bit', and by issuing their own coinage of 1/2, 1/4, 1/8 or 1/16 reales in copper.

In 1817, San Antonio, then known as San Fernando de Bexar, was suffering from a coin shortage, so the Spanish governor contracted with a local jeweler, Manuel Barrera, to issue 500 pesos in ½ real copper coins. None of these coins is 'officially' known today. It is assumed that these had Barrera's initials, the value "½" and the date on the obverse, and a single 'lone' star on the reverse.

I once met a coin dealer in Plano, Texas, who showed me a number of Texan documents, including a warrant for the payment of David Crockett's military pay to his survivors, and he claimed to have found two of the Barrera pieces with a metal detector near Monterrey, Mexico, which would have been the gateway from Mexico into Texas. The next time I went to see this man, his shop was closed, and I was later told that the warrant and other items in his collection were forgeries, and that he had been imprisoned for money laundering. His story of the Barrera pieces may also have been a fabrication.

Part of Barrera's contract was that he would redeem his coins in silver, and this caused a major problem. Although copper and silver could be denominated in reales, silver was preferred, so its purchasing power was greater than that of copper. Barrera lost money on the exchange, and either refused to or could not redeem all his coins.

In 1818, the Spanish governor approached the postmaster of San Antonio, Jose Antonio de la Garza, and contracted with him to issue another 500 pesos in  $\frac{1}{2}$  real copper coins. In addition to redeeming his own coins, Garza also had to redeem the remaining Barrera coins.



**The Garza Half Real of 1818**

The de la Garza coins, of which there are two varieties, have his initials "JAG", the value " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and the year 1818 on the obverse; on the reverse is an incuse, hollow centered lone star. The large planchet variety has the 1 in the value fraction near the J; the small planchet variety has the 1 near the G. These and presumably the Barrera pieces are the first numismatic reference to Texas with a Lone Star.

Garza lost so much money redeeming the copper  $\frac{1}{2}$  reales with silver money, that when he suspected the new independent Mexican authorities were going to force him to reissue his coins (and redeem them again) he gathered them up and threw them into the San Antonio River. The coins were virtually unknown in numismatic circles until 1959, when a small number of them were found with metal detectors along the banks of the San Antonio River.

Sources differ as to how many of the coins, also called 'jolas', exist today. Breen estimated that there were about 60-65 known, of which only 20-25 were of the small planchet variety. I love Breen's comment about the grading standards for the coins: "The coins are rare enough, and crudely enough made, that grading is all but impossible and hardly relevant." Except for one piece which was reportedly discovered in the cornerstone of a church in Goliad, all the coins show effects of having been buried for over a hundred years.

I have personally seen about six of the coins, including the pair which once belonged to the Bebee collections. I have also seen one piece that I would consider a counterfeit—the coin does not have the 'fabric' of the other pieces, the striking style is different and the star did not have a hollow center. My piece, which is a small planchet variety, is currently on display at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

A large planchet variety was sold at the Central States Show in May for \$19,550, a small planchet sold at the 2005 FUN Show auction for the same amount.

After Mexico gained its independence from Spain, and Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836, the new Republic of Texas began dealing with its own monetary worries. The country had plenty of land, but very little money. I am not aware of any coins being struck for the Republic of Texas, but there were three basic forms of paper instruments issued by the Republic: bonds, currency, and warrants.

The paper money can be divided into two major varieties—those that say "Government of Texas," and those that say "Republic of Texas." The former were issued while the capital was in Houston; the latter were issued after the capital was moved to Austin. The warrants come in a wide variety of designs and issuers, including the examples for the Texian (*sic*) Navy.

The Republic suffered deficit woes throughout its existence from 1836 to 1845. When Texas joined the Union, it sold a large portion of its western lands to the United States for \$10 million which was used to settle its debts, including the redemption of its paper money.

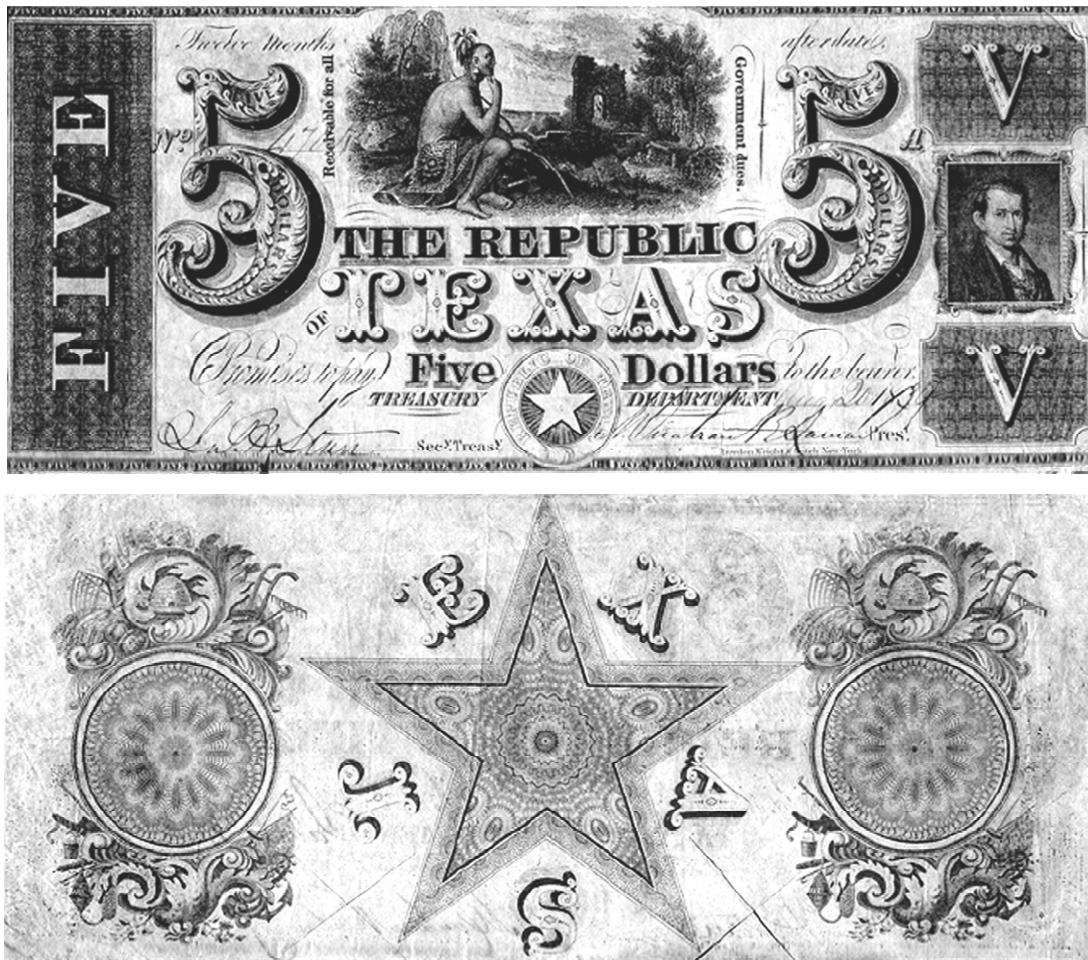
The paper money redemption had its own problems. Notes were presented for redemption, then went out the back door and were presented again. Ink cancellations were written or stamped on the notes, they went out the back door, the water-soluble ink was removed and the notes were presented again. Finally, razor cuts were applied to cancel the notes to prevent re-submission. Un-cancelled notes of the Republic have premium values today.

Notes of the Republic range in denomination from 1 dollar to 500 dollars. The scarcer denominations are the 2, 3 and 500 dollar notes.

Images of Texas notes of 1838 and 1839, courtesy of *The Texas State Library and Archives Commission*, <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republic/currency-01.html>



**Republic of Texas \$3, Issue of 1838 (back is unprinted)**



**Republic of Texas \$5, Issue of 1839, face and back.**

After Texas seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy, the government did not return to issuing paper money, but did return to the practice of issuing warrants. As before, there is a wide range of issuers for these warrants. The blue 5 dollar Treasury Warrant with George Washington is the design which is most often encountered.

Under the U. S. Constitution, the states do not have the right to coin money, so Texas has not issued coins or currency since the end of the Civil War. National Bank Notes were issued for national banks in Texas, and Texas has used sales tax tokens. The notes were not restricted to Texas, and the tokens are not legal tender money.

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*NI*

**Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia**  
**Muhammed Abdel Wahab**  
**Howard Ford NI #LM90**



**Egypt 5 Pound 1991**

On the 5 Pound portrait coins of Muhamad Abdel Wahab, KM727 in silver and KM728 in gold, his profession is indicated by the lines of sheet music behind his head. He is another of Egypt's famous musicians, a composer and singer. He was a singer in Egyptian movies as far back as the 1930's, having been introduced to the silver screen by one of Egypt's most famous filmmakers.

Wahab sang in *THE WHITE ROSE*, 1933. Around 1940, in one of his films, a great new talent, the remarkably beautiful actress and singer, Madiha Youssri, was introduced to act with Wahab and sing one of his famous songs (*AL AHRAH WEEKLY*, Issue 458, December 1999). The occasion turned out to be an honor for both of them.



*Terms Used in Coinage, continued from page 161*

**Platinum (Pt)**

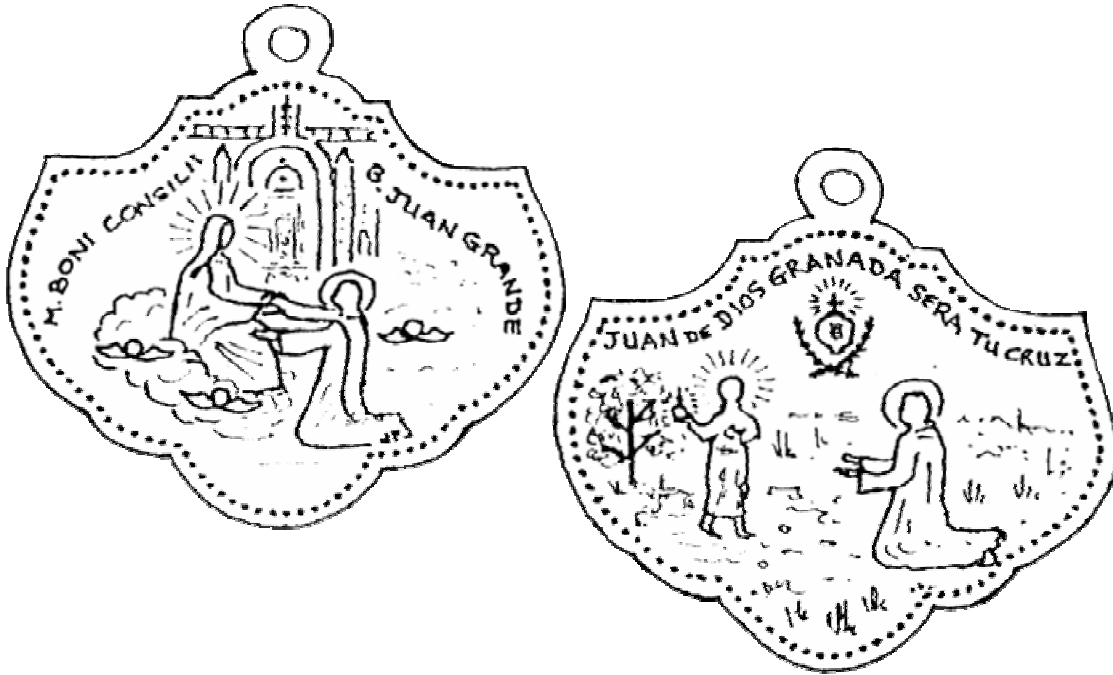
Platinum is a grey-white metal, atomic number 78, which occurs native in South America in combination with small quantities of osmium, iridium, palladium, ruthenium, and rhodium, and as an arsenide in deposits of mixed sulfide ores. It is denser than gold, specific gravity 21.5, which was problematic before the XX century when its value was less than that of gold and it could be used in counterfeiting. Today, however, it is valued much higher than gold on account of its extensive use in science and industry. Platinum has a far higher melting point and is much harder than other precious metals, the bulk metal is about as resistant to chemical action as is gold, and finely divided it is a powerful catalyst for chemical reactions. Only ever used in circulating coinage by Russia, platinum has become a popular investment metal and is today met with, sometimes along with palladium, in numerous NCLT and bullion coins.

*Continued on page 169*

## A Medal of the Hospitaller Brothers

Bob Forrest NI #2382

The modern Spanish aluminum medal shown here 1.3 times actual size has, on the obverse, St. John of God (JUAN DE DIOS) kneeling before the Infant Jesus, and on the reverse, the Blessed John Grande (B. JUAN GRANDE) kneeling before the Virgin Mary as "Mother of Good Counsel" (M. BONI CONSILII). The scenes depicted require some explanation.



St. John of God was born in Portugal in 1495 but at an early age appears to have run away from home and ended up as a street urchin in Spain. He became a gambler and a drunkard, and in his early twenties enlisted as a mercenary soldier, in which occupation he spent the next twenty years of his life until, at the age of about 40, he "found religion." Leaving the army, he became a shepherd and spent much time whilst tending his sheep in contemplating what a miserable sinner he was. Accordingly he set off for North Africa on a mission to ransom Christian captives from the Moors, but this proved abortive and he returned to Spain where he took to peddling pious images and religious tracts from a wheelbarrow. It was whilst engaged in this occupation, on his way to Granada, that the event pictured on the obverse of the medal took place. He found a small child by the roadside, poorly dressed and barefoot, who pleaded with him to carry him part of the way to Granada. John lifted the child onto his shoulders, but the child seemed unduly heavy (shades of St. Christopher here!) so when they came to a drinking fountain John suggested that they stop and rest. As the child dismounted from his shoulders he was suddenly transformed into who he really was, the Infant Jesus, and speaking the words "John of God, Granada shall be your cross" (JUAN DE DIOS GRANADA SERA TU CRUZ on the medal), he vanished. Granada was indeed to be the place where John would suffer in the name of Christ.

The rest of the story can be simply told. Having settled in Granada, he continued to peddle religious items, and after hearing a sermon by the Blessed John of Avila, he became even more convinced that he was a miserable sinner. This conviction led to such erratic behavior that he was eventually incarcerated in a lunatic asylum, where the staff set about trying to beat him back to normal. Fortunately, John of Avila was on hand with a better idea. He thought to channel John's "excessive piety" by persuading him to 'redeem' himself by founding a hospital for the sick and needy, which he did. This was, of course, his prophesied 'cross' and the beginning of the Order of Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, an organization which spread rapidly throughout Europe and which is still in existence.

The emblem of the Order is a 'bursting' pomegranate surmounted by a cross, this being the symbol which appears at the top of the obverse of the medal. As can just about be seen on the medal, the Infant Jesus held this same symbol in St John's vision, a novel twist to the usual orb. The symbolism is explained thus in the Hospitaller Brothers' web-page: the pomegranate and the cross represent, respectively, "charity and sacrifice." "The bursting fruit expresses the need for love to expand," we are told, "while the cross reminds us that there can be no charity without sacrifice." That is as may be. The fact is that the Spanish for pomegranate is 'granada', and the fruit has long been an emblem of the city of Granada.

Moving now to the reverse of the medal, the Blessed John Grande (also known as Juan Pecador or John the Sinner) was born at Carmona in Spain in 1546. In 1574 he joined the Order of Hospitallers and was eventually responsible for what we would now call "a major streamlining" of their health-care services. He died in 1600 as a result of tending the victims of a plague. As he was beatified only in 1853 and canonized only in 1996 he is "Blessed" not "Saint" in most modern accounts, as indeed he is on the medal.

The scene depicted on the reverse of the medal shows the Virgin Mary investing John Grande with a scapular-like garment. This relates to an event which occurred when he was only 22 years of age before he joined the Hospitallers. At that time he was a draper's apprentice, but one with ambitions to become a monk. Uncertain of what to do, he prayed to the Virgin Mary for some guidance (which is why, I presume, she is "Mother of Good Counsel" on the medal). She duly appeared to him in a vision and while presenting him with "the cloak of a hermit" said to him, "John, put on this dress, and enter at once into the service of my Son. So only will you please me." And he did.

### Sources

Basic outlines of the lives of both St. John of God and St. John Grande are to be found in most comprehensive dictionaries of saints, but accounts of the visions relevant to the obverse and reverse of this medal are, somewhat curiously, absent from most of them. For the vision of St. John of God, see Alban Goodier, *Saints for Sinners* (1938), pp.55-56. For the vision of St. John Grande, see E. Cobham Brewer, *A Dictionary of Miracles* (1884), p.487. The web-site of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God can be found at [www.hospitallers.org](http://www.hospitallers.org).

*NI*



**Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia**  
**Abd Al Halem Hafez**  
**Howard Ford NI #LM90**



**Egypt 5 Pound 1995**

The KM catalog shows four portrait coins for one of the leading Egyptian figures in the field of music, Abd Al Halem Hafez. All are dated 1995: a 1 pound silver and a 1 Pound gold, KM839 and 840, as well as 5 Pounds in both metals, KM841 and 842. Hafez was a poet and singer of great reputation. In other Arab countries, a male singer who is beginning to attract great appreciation for his talent is sometimes referred to as "the new Hafez" or "a second Hafez."

There is actually a fifth coin for Hafez. For him to be remembered by his country on five different coins must attest to the hold his memory has on the people of Egypt. This fifth coin is a 1 Pound 1983, KM549, a death commemorative. On this coin his portrait shares space with that of another Egyptian poet, Ahmad Shawky.

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*NI*

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*Terms Used in Coinage, continued from page 166*

**Terms Used in Coinage**

**Iron (Fe)**

In its pure state, iron is a soft grey heavy metal, atomic number 26, specific gravity 7.87. Although iron is exceedingly common on Earth, and has been worked for thousands of years, it is rarely met with in a pure form by the numismatist. Although too soft to make good dies, iron is nonetheless too hard to make good coinage metal, its properties are extremely variable depending upon impurities, and it tends to corrode readily. The primary importance of iron is in the production of steel. Iron and its alloys tend to possess the distinctive property of ferromagnetism, an extremely strong susceptibility to magnetic attraction.

*NI*

## Recent Chinese Fakes J. Halfpenny NI #155



### Counterfeit Dollar Yunnan Province

As a long time collector I have had my share of encounters with counterfeit coins. Recently however, the number of Chinese counterfeits is increasing. Virtually all of these 'coins' have a grainy surface, which is readily seen with a 5× or better glass, and will show rotation of the reverses to some degree. Another quick check is the eyes. For some reason the counterfeiters don't seem to do them well. It seems that the way they get around counterfeiting laws is by putting the name of one province in English, and a different one in Chinese. The coins are also always light weight and while I have not been able to assay the coins, many appear to be of 'good' silver, that is 0.800 or better, so melt is a consideration if the price is right. I hope this helps you to figure out what you might have in your collection. Good luck and good hunting.

I will update the list as additional types are identified and will reply to all of our readers who contact me. Email: [jcoinman@comcast.net](mailto:jcoinman@comcast.net). Postal: J. William Halfpenny, 400 West 65th Street, Westmont, IL 60559 USA.

Catalog references:

C = *Coins of the World, 1750-1850*, William Craig

K = *Illustrated Catalog of Chinese Coins (Gold, Silver, Nickel and Aluminum)*,  
Edward Kann.

KM = *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, Colin Bruce, editor

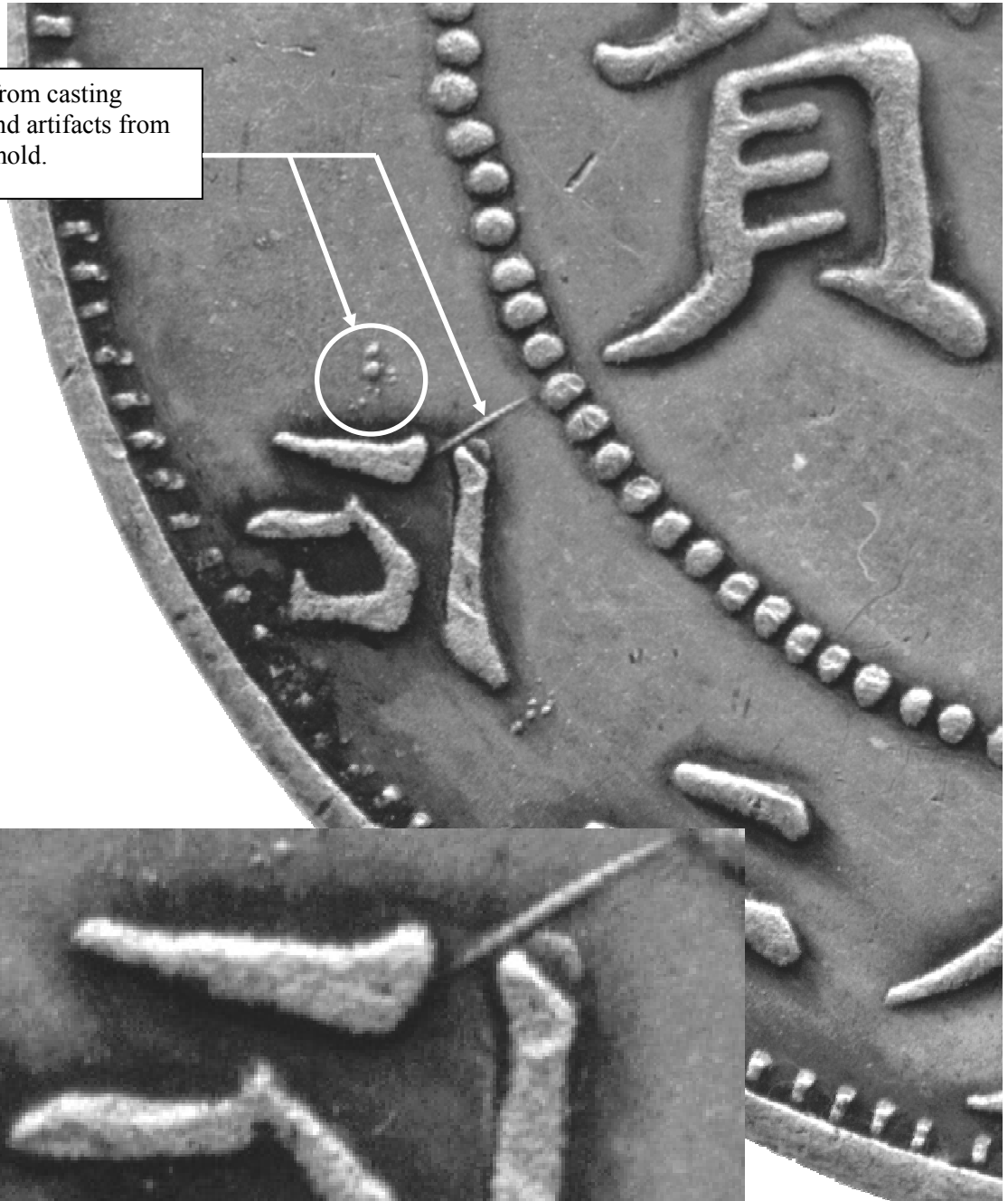
Y = *Catalog of Modern World Coins*, R.S. Yeoman

#### Counterfeit

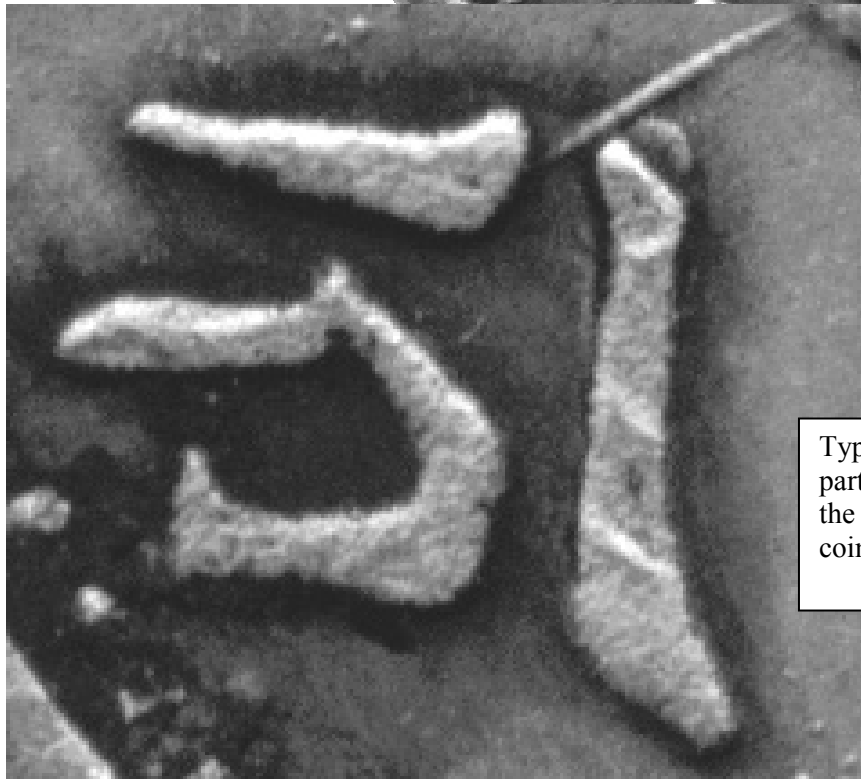
An imitation that is made with the intent to deceptively represent its content or origins. The word counterfeit most frequently describes forged money or documents, but can also describe clothing, software, pharmaceuticals, or any other manufactured item. Source, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterfeit>

Something that is an imitation and is made to deceive persons into believing that the forgery is genuine. Source, <http://www.ots.treas.gov/glossary/gloss-c.html>

Bubbles from casting process and artifacts from the coin mold.



Typical rough surfaces, particularly noticeable on the raised portions of the coin.



	Denom.	Ref. #	Date	Diameter in mm	Mass in grams	Note:
China						
Empire	Dollar	Y31	Year 3 (1914)	38.90	21.86	Kann 932
Hu-Pei Province, Empire	Dollar	Y127.1	(1895-1907)	39.00	20.40	1 Mace and 3 Candareens
Hu-Pei Province, Empire	Tael	Y128.1	Year 30 (1904)	39.00	20.43	Reverse broken or missing type
Hu-pei Province, Republic	50 Cash	Y405.1	Year 7 (1918)	35.00	13.28	Looks good, AU, so be careful
Kansu, Republic	51 Cash	Y408	Year 15 (1926)	35.40	12.29	Curved die crack left of star flag
Kiang-Soo, Empire	10 Cash	Y162	(1904-05)	28.50	06.09	
Kwang Tung	Dollar	Y198	(1889)	39.00	20.68	Better than average, be very careful.
Manchurian Provinces, empire	20 Cents	Y213a	(ca. 1911)	24.00	04.11	1 mace 4.4 candareens, spelling error, province
Republic General Issue	Dollar	Y345	Year 21 (1932)	39.00	17.80 to 20.65	No birds over Junk
Republic General Issue	Dollar	KM-Pn28	(1914)	39.00	21.20	K 642a Yuan Shih-Kai military portrait (L. Giorgi)
Republic General Issue	Dollar	KM-Pn32	Year 3 (1914)	39.00	21.39	K 643 Yuan Shih-Kai portrait. Very flat looking nose & eyes
Republic General Issue	Dollar	Y332	(1917)	39.00	19.51	Inauguration of Hung Hsien regime, w/designer's name
Republic General Issue	Dollar	K676b	Year 10 (1921)	39.00	19.59	Unlisted in KM. Hsu Shih- Chang memorial, Year 10
Republic General Issue	Dollar	K619	(1928)	39.00	20.95	3 mast reverse
Republic General Issue	Dollar	Y329	Year 3 (1914)	39.00	21.40	Yuan Shi Kai
Republic General Issue	Dollar	Y329	Year3 (1914)	39.00	19.98	Yuan Shi Kai w/ L. GIORGI on reverse
Republic General Issue	Dollar	Y329	Year3 (1914)	39.00	19.96	Yuan Shi Kai, w/ Y332 reverse
Sinkiang Province, Empire	Sar (Tael)	Y26	(AH 1325)	37.80	17.41	
Taiwan	Dollar	C25.3	(1837-1845)	39.00	19.22 to 20.08	"Old Man" no chops.
Yunnan, Rep.	50 Cents	Y257	(1911)	33.50	12.80	

	Denom.	Ref. #	Date	Diameter in mm	Mass in grams	Note:
Yunnan, Rep.	50 Cents	Y257.2	(1911)	33.50	12.80	
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Tael	Y128.1	Year 30 (1904)	39.00	20.94	2 Dragons, facing denomination
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Tael	Unlisted	1908 (Chinese date)	39.00	20.26	4 Manchu figures @ top, Kirin mintmark in circle.
Kirin, Empire	Dollar	Y183.3		39.00	19.73	Fairly authentic looking, beware.
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	Y127	(1894)	39.00	20.55	Kann F119
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	Y127.1	(1986-1907)	39.00	21.02	Obverse inscription fat
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	Y127.2	(1986-1907)	39.00	17.59	Obverse inscription med
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	Y127.3	(1986-1907)	39.00	17.57	Obverse inscription thin
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	as Y127.1	(1986-1907)	39.00	25.28	Different inscription @ top
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	Y131.1	(1909)	39.00	18.46	7 symbols at top, not 5.
Hu-Peh Province, Empire	Dollar	as Y131	(1909-11)	39.00	19.00	4 leaf rosette on Obv
Cheh-Kiang Province, Empire	Dollar	Y55	(1898-99)	39.00	20.75	Very expensive. Be very careful.
Chihli Province, Empire	Tael	Y74.3	34th year Kuang Hsu	39.00	20.80	Fat inscription obverse, Board of Revenue
Chihli Province, Empire	Tael	Y74.4	34th year Kuang Hsu	39.00	19.89	Thin inscription obverse, Kann unlisted authority
Chihli Province, Empire	Tael	Y73.2	34th year Kuang Hsu	39.00	20.00	Very strong image.
Yunnan, Empire	Dollar	Y260	(1909-11)			
China Fantasies						
Chihli, empire	Dollar	Obv Y65	Year 22 (1896)	39.00	20.38	Rev Y 73.2-Kann 181
Empire	Dollar	as Y31	Year 3	39.00	19.92	Dragon smaller, different clouds
Empire	Dollar	Unlisted	Year 3	39.00	20.05	Unlisted portrait Obv Y336 Rev
Empire General Issue	Dollar size	Kann B13		38.20	18.40	Obv portrait of Kuang Hsu, reverse, 2 upright dragons flank inscription
Empire General Issue	Dollar size	Unlisted		38.20	16.26 to 17.18	Small god of longevity w/staff and birds over l shoulder.

	Denom.	Ref. #	Date	Diameter in mm	Mass in grams	Note:
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size	Unlisted	1616-1626	39.00	22.25	Period of rule T'ien Ming
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1627-1643	39.00	22.25	Period of rule Ch'ung Cheng
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1662-1722	39.00	22.25	Period of rule K'ang His
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1796-1820	39.00	22.25	Period of rule Chia Ch'ing
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1851-1861	39.00	22.25	Period of rule Hsien Feng
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1862-1874	39.00	22.25	Period of rule T'ung Chi
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1875-1908	39.00	22.25	Period of rule Kuang Hsu
Emperor Portrait Series	Dollar Size		1909-1911	39.00	22.25	Period of rule Hsuan Tung
Hei Lung Kiang Province	Dollar	Unlisted		39.00	20.80	Possible imperial pattern. If so, extremely rare.
Honan, republic	Dollar	Unlisted	Year 20 (1931)	38.00	19.02	Like the 100 Cash Y 398 copper but reverse says Dollar
Hupeh, Empire	Dollar	as 127.1	(1894)	39.00	20.20	Reverse OK, but marked Szechuan Province
Kiangnan, Empire	Dollar	Rev 145.20v	(1900-05)	39.00	24.03	Reverse on both sides
Kwang Hsi, Republic	10 Cash	Unlisted	Year 20 (1931)	28.50	06.15	Portrait Obv, crossed flags above inscription Rev.
Kwang Hsi, Republic	10 Cash	Unlisted		35.00	11.66	Reverse marked 20 Cash
Kwang Tung, Empire	Tael	Kann 932	(1904)	39.00	18.50	Obverse bats different, no Krause listing.
Kwang Tung, Empire	Tael	Y198		39.00	20.68	7 mace and 3 candareens
Kwang-tung, Republic	20 Cents	Y213a	33rd Year Kwang-tung	24.00	04.67	Fantasy Reverse CCGS slab-proof-70, polished, maybe VF
Medal	Dollar Size	Unlisted	1930	39.00	21.33	Completion of the Central Bank SHAKGHAI ( <i>sic</i> ) CHINA under Junk
Medal, Military	Dollar Size	Unlisted		39.00	20.95	Junk Rev.
Republic	Dollar	Y329	Year 3 (1914)	39.00	23.02	Two heads
Republic General Issue	Yuan	Unlisted	Year 18 (1929)	38.00	17.54	Kann 610

	Denom.	Ref. #	Date	Diameter in mm	Mass in grams	Note:
Sinkiang	Sar (Tael)	Unlisted	1906 (Chinese date)	39.00	17.80	Tai-Ching-Ti-Kuo silver coin
Tai-Ching-Ti-Kuo Copper Coin	10 Cash	as Y27	Year 3	35.00	12.07	20 Cash size, but legend reads 50 Copper....
Tai-Ching-Ti-Kuo Copper Coin	Cash	Unlisted		28.50	05.90	Another hi-grade to be careful of.
Taiwan	Dollar	C25.4 Rev.	(1853)	39.00	22.60	Obverse very bad imitation
Taiwan	Dollar	Unlisted		38.75	18.42	7 Mace 2 Candareens
Yun-nan province	Dollar	as Y254	1908	39.00	20.34	Looks like it, but Yin/Yang mint mark.
Taiwan, Empire, w/ Kirin mint mark	Tael	as Kann B37		38.00	19.27	Reverse different dragon, flowers & horse. Obverse dots instead of flowers
Other Fakes: Various Countries						
Great Britain	British Trade Dollar	Kann T5	1911	39.00	20.08	
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar	as Kann 10	1866	38.00	18.72	w/ Edward VII portrait. With the usual poorly drawn eyes.
Japan	Japan Yen	as Y25.1	Year 3 (1870)	38.90	21.70	w/ Y5.1 Date
Japan	Japan Yen	Y28.1	Year 8	38.00	18.90	c/m 'Gin' left
Korea	5 Yang	Kann 1114	Year 501 (1892)	36.60	19.60	
Korea	Whan	Kann 1115	Year 502 (1893)	37.60	22.52	
Philippines	Philippines Peso	Kann 168	1903S	38.00	18.55	
Spain	Onza 999?	as Y60	1869	38.75	22.01	Missing most of legends
Uganda	Five Shillings		07/23/1086	38.00	18.95	Royal wedding, July 23, 1086 (sic) Obv. KM7
United States	Trade Dollar		1879-S	37.50	20.77	Hybrid of obverse and reverse as genuine coin never issued.

NI

Answers to crossword puzzle.

Across: 1) Egypt 3) Ecuador 6) Elizondo 8) Ming 9) Bean

Down: 1) Even 2) Platinum 4) Denver 5) John 7) Iron

NI

## Member Notices

Viet Nam Wanted. 10 Dong Copper-Nickel (not the Silver KM-18) 1986-dated coin. It is only reported in Schon catalogs, as A11. It is a non-circulating legal tender collector coin likely sold in a plastic capsule. I would like to purchase this coin, to include the capsule, and any paperwork with it too. If you do not have this coin for sale or trade, I would like to know of each piece in a collection or dealers' stocks. Please contact me, Howard A. Daniel III, at HADANIEL3@MSN.COM or at P.O. Box 989, Deltaville, VA 23043-0989 USA.

Software Reviews. I am interested in the advice of fellow NI members regarding software to catalog an international collection, particularly user friendly software not requiring great computer skills. I see advertisements for "World Coin Collector's Assistant" offered by Carlisle Development Corporation. If you have used and evaluated this software or can recommend something better, please contact me, all assistance is appreciated. Robert Ronus, PO Box 712421, Los Angeles, CA 90071 USA.

Gallery Numis (Tom Galway), P.O. Box 620421, Middleton, WI 53562-0421: Price List 25 with coins from many nations with emphasis on low priced coins and on coins from French Indo-China, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

## NI

			1			2			
			3						
	4							5	
	6		7						
						8			
9									

### Across

1. Wahab's home
3. Early hoe money originated here
6. Author of *Eight Reales and Pesos of the New World*
8. China T'ien \_\_\_\_\_
9. Fruit of cacahuatl tree, cacao \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

1. Not the odd couple
2. Precious metal with high melting point
4. NI participates at the ANA show in this city in August
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Grande of the Hospitaller Brothers
7. Ferrous metal used in Coins.

Answers in articles and on page 175.

NI